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Message Text

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- --
---------- 001582
P 20,300Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, UR (MCCLELLAN, WOODFORD D.; ASTAKHOVA, IRINA I.)
SUBJECT: SOV-US MARRIAGE - WOODFORD MCCLELLAN

1. AUGUST 20 WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES CARRIED ARTICLES STATING EXCHANGE PROFESSOR WOODFORD D. MCCLELLAN MARRIED SOV CITIZEN IRINA IGOREVNA ASTAKHOVA IN MOSCOW MAY 4, 1974 AND THAT ASTAKHOVA HAS BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION WITH HER HUSBAND. DEPT HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MARRIAGE CASE. ARTICLES TRACE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMANCE FROM 1972, AND INDICATE THAT REFUSAL WAS BASED ON ASTAKHOVA'S ALLEGED KNOWLEDGE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

2. WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE INDICATES THERE ARE APPROX 20 CASES OF US-SOV MARRIAGE IN WHICH SOV SPOUSE HAS BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. (PRESUME THIS IS GARBLE OF FACT THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 20 US-SOV MARRIAGE CASES -IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT.) ARTICLE -ALSO STATES THAT MCCLELLAN HAS MET WITH AMBASSADOR STOESSEL AND THAT EMBASSY HAS MADE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION ON MCCLELLAN'S BEHALF.
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3. DEPT HAS HAD FOLLOW-UP PRESS INQUIRIES ON MCCLELLAN CASE. PLEASE REPORT ASAP ON EMBASSY ROLE AND PROVIDE ASSESSMENT SITUATION. WILL POUCH COPIES OF ARTICLES. INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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